

workers to fill IT positions in the U.S. S. 1723 would increase the current cap on H1B visas for skilled workers from 65,000 per year to 95,000 for the remainder of the year, and to 115,000 by fiscal year 2000.

From my discussions with information technology leaders, and on the basis the reports from the Commerce Department and ITAA regarding the IT worker shortage, there are compelling reasons to raise the cap on H1B visas. In many instances, American IT companies need the experience and language abilities of foreign workers to effectively compete in local markets. Additionally, with the IT industry's heavy reliance on research and development, there are times when the unique skills of a foreign worker contribute significantly in the development of critical information technology.

Mr. President, while it may be necessary to increase the number of H1B visas that are available for skilled IT workers, there are education and training initiatives that we must also encourage the IT industry to undertake to make certain that opportunities are available for U.S. workers who want to enter the information technology field. We must especially focus on retraining unemployed and older displaced workers, and encourage new partnerships between the IT industry and education institutions—both at the secondary and higher education level—to meet this IT worker shortage challenge.

I have been impressed, Mr. President, with the many education and training initiatives that the IT industry has undertaken in response to this shortage. I know that the IT industry is investing millions of dollars in education and training programs for American workers, especially to inform young people about the opportunities in the IT field. Several weeks ago, I had the privilege of visiting students in the Red River High School in Grand Forks, ND, who are participating in an excellent computer network training program sponsored by the CISCO Corporation. Very shortly, these young people will be able to enter the job market with skills that will be invaluable.

I am also aware of several excellent partnerships that Microsoft has initiated with Green Thumb for older workers, and the American Association of Community Colleges to train students at technical and community colleges. There are, of course, many other excellent examples of ongoing partnerships in the IT industry.

Mr. President, while these efforts are Herculean in many respects, we need to encourage more education initiatives to train American students and workers to fill IT jobs that will be so critical to maintain our leadership in the 21st century. For this reason, I introduced an amendment to S. 1133 on March 17, 1998, to increase the number of partnerships between the IT industry, and education institutions and job training programs by providing a tax

credit for employers who offer information technology training for individuals.

The credit would be an amount equal to 20 percent of information technology training program expenses, however, not to exceed \$6,000 in a taxable year. The value of the credit would increase by 5 percentage points if the IT training program is operated in an empowerment zone or enterprise community, in a school district in which at least 50 percent of the students in the district participate in the school lunch program, or in an area designated as a disaster zone by the President or Secretary of Agriculture. I am very pleased that this initiative has been endorsed by the Information Technology Association of America.

Mr. President, although S. 1723 may not be the appropriate measure to offer IT training tax credit legislation, I believe it is important to call attention to this legislation to emphasize the need for more education and training opportunities for American workers in the IT field. Therefore, I am today introducing my IT training tax credit legislation, and I hope that my colleagues who are supporting an increase in the H1B visa cap for foreign workers, will also support this provision to train and educate American workers for IT positions. We have an obligation to make certain that opportunities in this exciting field are available to American workers and students. I welcome cosponsors of this legislation, and I ask unanimous consent Mr. President, that the text of this legislation be included in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2089

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CREDIT FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to business-related credits) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 45D. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM EXPENSES.

“(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 38, in the case of an employer, the information technology training program credit determined under this section is an amount equal to 20 percent of information technology training program expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer during the taxable year.

“(b) ADDITIONAL CREDIT PERCENTAGE FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—The percentage under subsection (a) shall be increased by 5 percentage points for information technology training program expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer with respect to a program operated in—

“(1) an empowerment zone or enterprise community designated under part I of subchapter U,

“(2) a school district in which a least 50 percent of the students attending schools in such district are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches under the school lunch program

established under the National School Lunch Act, or

“(3) an area designated as a disaster area by the Secretary of Agriculture or by the President under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act in the taxable year or the 4 preceding taxable years.

“(c) LIMITATION.—The amount of information technology training program expenses with respect to an employee which may be taken into account under subsection (a) for the taxable year shall not exceed \$6,000.

“(d) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM EXPENSES.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘information technology training program expenses’ means expenses paid or incurred by reason of the participation of the employer in any information technology training program.

“(2) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term ‘information technology training program’ means a program—

“(A) for the training of computer programmers, systems analysts, and computer scientists or engineers (as such occupations are defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics),

“(B) involving a partnership of—

“(i) employers, and

“(ii) State training programs, school districts, or university systems, and

“(C) at least 50 percent of the costs of which is paid or incurred by the employers.

“(e) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction or credit under any other provision of this chapter shall be allowed with respect to information technology training program expenses (determined without regard to the limitation under subsection (c)).

“(f) ALLOCATIONS.—For purposes of this section, rules similar to the rules of section 41(f)(2) shall apply.”

(b) CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Section 38(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to current year business credit) is amended by striking “plus” at the end of paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (12) and inserting “, plus”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(13) the information technology training program credit determined under section 45D.”

(c) NO CARRYBACKS.—Subsection (d) of section 39 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to carryback and carryforward of unused credits) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) NO CARRYBACK OF SECTION 45D CREDIT BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE.—No portion of the unused business credit for any taxable year which is attributable to the information technology training program credit determined under section 45D may be carried back to a taxable year ending before the date of the enactment of section 45D.”

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 45D. Information technology training program expenses.”

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after the date of the enactment of this Act in taxable years ending after such date.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 831

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors

of S. 831, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for congressional review of any rule promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service that increases Federal revenue, and for other purposes.

S. 981

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) were added as cosponsors of S. 981, a bill to provide for analysis of major rules.

S. 1021

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1021, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that consideration may not be denied to preference eligibles applying for certain positions in the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 1264

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1264, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to provide for improved public health and food safety through enhanced enforcement.

S. 1350

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1350, a bill to amend section 332 of the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve State and local authority to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of certain telecommunications facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1580

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1580, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to place an 18-month moratorium on the prohibition of payment under the medicare program for home health services consisting of venipuncture solely for the purpose of obtaining a blood sample, and to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study potential fraud and abuse under such program with respect to such services.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 1647, a bill to reauthorize and make reforms to programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to establish a Congressional Office of Regulatory Analysis.

S. 1677

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

S. 1680

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1680, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify that licensed pharmacists are not subject to the surety bond requirements under the medicare program.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1693, a bill to renew, reform, reinvigorate, and protect the National Park System.

S. 1707

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1707, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for improved safety of imported foods.

S. 1758

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1758, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests.

S. 1875

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1875, a bill to initiate a coordinated national effort to prevent, detect, and educate the public concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and to identify effective interventions for children, adolescents, and adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect, and for other purposes.

S. 1877

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1877, a bill to remove barriers to the provision of affordable housing for all Americans.

S. 1908

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to carve out form payments to Medicare+Choice organizations amounts attributable to disproportionate share hospital payments and pay such amounts directly to those disproportionate share hospitals in which their enrollees receive care.

S. 2007

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2007, a bill to amend the false

claims provisions of chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code.

S. 2022

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2022, a bill to provide for the improvement of interstate criminal justice identification, information, communications, and forensics.

S. 2031

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2031, a bill to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in payments for home health services provided under the medicare program, and to improve the quality of those home health services.

S. 2033

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2033, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to penalties for crimes involving cocaine, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 46

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 46, a joint resolution expressing the sense of the Congress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 55, a concurrent resolution declaring the annual memorial service sponsored by the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service Board of Directors to honor emergency medical services personnel to be the "National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service."

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 96

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. D'AMATO) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 96, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a postage stamp should be issued honoring Oskar Schindler.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 97—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION FACING THE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF AFGHANISTAN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DODD, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: